STANDARD FORM NO. 64

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO : Chief, Technical Branch

DATE: 24 September 1953

A FROM : [redacted]

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SUBJECT: Report on American Psychological Association Convention.

1. This is a brief report on the American Psychological Association Convention held in Cleveland, Ohio, 1-9 September 1953. The undersigned took this trip at his own expense and with the concurrence of [redacted] and [redacted], the period he was absent from the office was not considered as leave.

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2. Leaving Washington on Thursday, 3 September 1953, I attended the meetings of the convention on 4 and 5 September and then drove to Detroit, Michigan where I interviewed [redacted] and brought him up to date regarding the developments of the proposed research project in Detroit. I returned to the convention and attended meetings on 8 and 9 September and then returned to Washington. The meetings were held in five widely separated hotels and school buildings which made attendance difficult as meetings were held simultaneously at different locations.

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3. The general impression of the meetings was not as favorable as some others because the papers themselves were limited to twelve minutes and there were a good many symposiums which were more extemporaneous rather than planned presentations. The movies presented at the meetings were not interesting from our point of view although technically they were very good in the abnormal and psychiatric fields. The meeting on stress and anxiety was not as interesting as the title might lead one to expect. Chemical analysis of the blood was made before and after individuals went through jump training with the Air Force. Controlled groups were compared with those going through jump training. Chemical changes were noted in the experimental group but the findings presented nothing new over the literature of the past many years.

4. Though I did not attend the meeting on Rorschach tests given after hypnotically induced hostility, reports from those who attended showed there was very little new presented and the hypnosis was the usual classroom type and largely a study of the Rorschach test.

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5. The physiological meetings were interesting but nothing very new was presented. Temporary relief of fear by sodium-pentobarbital injection was what was to be expected with the drug and experimental setup presented.

6. The meeting on the preference for saccarin was an attempt to determine whether saccarin or sodium is the attraction factor in rats who are starved. The results of the red-green discrimination in the dog were negative.

7. There was a much larger number of industrial psychologists who attended the meeting and many of the symposiums were devoted to the introduction of psychological techniques in industrial groups. Summaries of the papers will be available later and the complete reports of the presidents of the various sections will be printed in full.

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